

Sat. 23 Sept.

My very dear friends -

A week ago, yesterday, I rec^d the Doctor's most kind letter of the 9th which was delayed until that time in consequence of some difficulty experienced by Mr. Hollans in obtaining his baggage - However, I ought not to have omitted a single day in acknowledging your kind invitation, but the truth is, that I hardly knew what to do, or to say about it, & have been in a state of very anxious suspense - Poor Sam. has been so very feeble again, that I am extremely uneasy about him - Slight bronchial bleedings, & great general prostration, with occasional feverish reactions render him quite unfit for his business, tho' he still pursues it - He has gone, with Mary & the infant, (to spend 2 days only) up the river with his sister-in-law & I am now writing from his house where I am staying until their return, "in charge" of the elder children - I cannot hope for

any ^{good} ~~great~~ results from so short a trip, unless
on his spirits, but if he comes home
tolerably well & remains so, for a day or
two - I shall allow myself the pleasure
of spending a week or so with him to which
indeed, I look forward with no small satisfaction.
I do not mean to work - but just to "mouse
about" the new study (!) resolving my accu-
mulated quiddities - cribbing duplicates - more
Gray's - & as Spenser says "Now this, now that
he tasteth faintly" - we will also, as you
propose, arrange about the Herb. paper. I do
not give up my quarters, as I should not like
to leave N. Y. at the moment, (unless some
definite engagement renders it necessary) &
I should find it hard to get so good & roomy
accommodations as I now possess, for the same
reason - tho' in other respects, I have seen,
as you my dear friends have done also,
that I might die quietly enough, before the
Mr. Judge would trouble himself about me.

I know ~~that~~ ^{Dr.} had no time for long letters, & I
therefore keep no debtor & creditor with ~~him~~ ^{himself},
but I have written this letter in the pl. number
as a ~~sort~~ ^{part} of (very shabby!) acknowl-
edgment of dear Mrs. J's last kind letter, for which I
hope to thank her in person. - If I ~~do not~~
find Brother Sam. tolerably comfortable
I shall probably leave this on Wed. or Thurs.
at the latest - if otherwise, I shall stay over Sunday
in N. Y. & start on Monday, unless he should
seem to be growing still more feeble,
which I will not anticipate.

May God bless & prosper you both
& spare you to each other many years
is the earnest desire of every affe-
ctionate friend.
H.

Dr. & Mrs. Gray

This is about as plainly a letter as the Dr. could
write - or even write himself (?)

Prof. A. Gray
Harvard University
Cambridge
Massachusetts.

Excuse my paper - Mother's Aunt's message.
I shall be back - in the afternoon -
the Principals -